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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/739,373

12/19/2000

Yuichi Hosoda

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08/06/2004

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EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/739,373

Applicant(s)

HOSODA, YUICHI

Examiner

Thierry L Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 10 & 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 10 & 17, the phrase "and the like" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "and the like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomory (U.S. 5815764).

Regarding claim 1, Tomory discloses a data processing apparatus (workstation, fig. 2) which can transmit a printing job to an image recording apparatus (printer with plurality of bins, fig. 1, col. 8, lines 15-67) having plural holding units each capable of holding plural sheets or an image recording apparatus capable of connecting with an option apparatus having plural holding units, said data processing apparatus comprising:

(1) holding unit name registration means (workstation for storing plurality of registered users name for plurality of holding bins, figs. 3-9, col. 11, lines 30-55 and col. 12, lines 25-60) for accepting, in order to register plural discrimination names including a user name and names of plural groups (each holding bin is assigned to user and/or users and groups, figs. 3-9, col. 9, lines 1-32 and col. 11, lines 32-55) to which a user corresponding to the user name belongs for each of

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the plural holding units of said image recording apparatus, designation of the user name and the names of the plural groups to which the user corresponding to the user name belongs, and for transmitting the designation content to said image recording apparatus (discharging printed sheets to assigned users/groups, fig. 5, cols. 11-12);

(2) holding unit name capture means (workstation for storing and capturing plurality of registered users name, fig. 2) for capturing the plural discrimination names registered (discriminating registered users name, fig. 5) to each of the holding units of said image recording apparatus, from said image recording apparatus; and

(3) job creation means (workstation for creating print jobs, fig. 2) for accepting, when creating the printing job, designation that the plural discrimination names captured by said holding unit name capture means are set as sheet discharge addresses of the printing job, and actually creating the printing job including the accepted sheet discharge address (discharging printed sheets to assigned users/groups, fig. 5, cols. 11-12) designation by the plural discrimination names.

Regarding claim 2, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said holding unit name registration means also accepts designation of an E-mail address (col. 13, lines 28-40) of the user corresponding to the designated user name, and transmits the designation content including the E-mail address to said image recording apparatus.

Regarding claim 3, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discrimination name is information representing an owner (fig. 5) who exclusively uses the holding unit.

Regarding claim 4, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said holding unit name registration means inputs or selectively designates the user name and the names of the plural groups (fig. 5, cols. 11-12) to which the user corresponding to the user name belongs in order to register the plural discrimination names for each of the holding units of said image recording apparatus.

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Regarding claim 5, please see claim 1 rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 1 above.

Regarding claims 6-11, Tomory further discloses an apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising: sheet discharge information capture means for capturing sheet discharge end information and holding unit monitoring information notified (job completion/status are notified via email messages to the registered users, cols. 11-14) by said image recording apparatus; and display means for displaying a message (cols. 11-14) to the user on the basis of the sheet discharge end information and the holding unit monitoring information captured by said sheet discharge information capture means.

Regarding claims 12-36 recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claims 1-11 above; therefore, claims 12-36 are rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claims 1-11.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(1) U.S. 5898592 to Salgado et al, discloses the same invention as described by Tomory.

(2) U.S. 6292267 to Mori et al, discloses assigning users/groups to holding units of forming image apparatus.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (703) 305-1897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

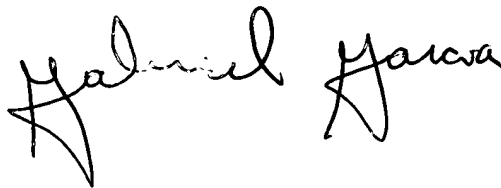
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (703)308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham

TP

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gabriel Garcia". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the "TP" initials.

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER